

Sunday, September 21, 2014

3:00pm

Madonna della Strada Chapel

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Scherzo, Op. 2 (1926)

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

Litanies (August 1937), JA 119

Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

Prélude et Fugue sur le nom d'Alain, Op. 7 (1942)

Maurice Duruflé

Meditation, Op. Posthum (1964)

Maurice Duruflé

Prélude, Adagio et Choral Varié sur le thème •Veni Creator,• Op. 4 (1930)

Maurice Duruflé

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H. Ricardo Ramirez is the Director of Music and Organist for the Cathedral of the Holy Name, Chicago Illinois where he directs four choral ensembles and performs on the cathedral's three mechanical instruments, including the West Gallery's 117-rank organ built by Flentrop Orgelbouw. Born in El Paso, Texas, Dr. Ramirez attended the University of Notre Dame earning two undergraduate degrees simultaneously: B.S. in electrical engineering, and, B.M. in performance. He later received a Master of Music degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and he earned the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York. His teachers included Daniel H. Pedtke, Samuel Martin, Robert Anderson, and David Craighead (organ). Other teachers include Lloyd Pfautch (choral conducting), Gerald Plain (composition) and William

King and Elizabeth Clark, as well as further studies in original dance with Bill Crase (Iroquois song leader). Dr. Ramirez provided the choreography for the opera Killbear Comes Home by composer Paul Stuart which was hailed as "a charming, visceral combination of Native American and modern dance" (Democrat and Chronicle).

Among Dr. Ramirez specializations in organ repertoire is French organ music of the twentieth century, including the complete organ works of Maurice Duruflé and the six symphonies for organ of Louis Vierne. The Flint Journal's review of his performance of Louis Vierne's 6th Symphony was impressive and exciting...(and)...the improvised set of variations on Veni Creator should be written down as a model for improvisation." Dr. Ramirez has been awarded prizes in organ playing and composition including National hymn Competition sponsored by the Diocese of Rochester, New York; the Flint, Mich International Organ-Playing Competition, and the Fort Wayne, Indiana National Organ Playing Competition.

Dr. Ramirez is past Dean of the Chicago Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.